

**The Music Center
Performing Artists
in Schools and
Neighborhoods**



**Exciting
Dance
Music
Theatre
Storytelling
Performances
Come To You**

TAIKOPROJECT

Let's Get Started!

Enclosed is a packet of information about the scheduled program. Please review all of the documents carefully, as they are the materials you will need to host a successful program.

THE DAILY SCHEDULE

It is important that the daily schedule be maintained as specified on the confirmation document. If special circumstances occur, notify The Music Center staff as soon as possible. Changes may be accommodated pending artist availability (which can be limited). We request that all participants be seated in the performance area and ready to begin at the scheduled times.

YOUR FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

About a week after the performance, you'll receive an invoice in the mail. You have 30 days to pay upon receipt of the invoice. We do ask that you wait until you receive the invoice before sending payment.

ARTIST INTRODUCTION & STAGING REQUIREMENTS

Please introduce the artist with the enclosed introduction. There is also specific information you will need to prepare for the arrival of each artist. Please give the tech sheet to the personnel in charge of setting up the performance area well in advance of the scheduled dates. Be sure to have ready any equipment which may be required.

PRESS RELEASE AND POSTER

A template press release is included should you wish to publicize the event. If you wish to use it, simply copy the text into a word document and fill in the blanks with the appropriate information. A premade poster is also included to let your community know about the upcoming event.

CURRICULUM CONNECTION FOR CLASSROOM TEACHERS

These pre- and post-event classroom activities are designed to deepen the understanding and engagement of the program. Please duplicate this preparation material and distribute to all teachers whose students will be attending the event to allow them to fully prepare the students.

STUDENT SUPERVISION AT SCHOOL SITES

In accordance with California law, The Music Center requires that a classroom teacher be present with students at all times. It is expected that teachers will attend events with their class and actively participate in the learning experience.

We applaud your commitment to arts education and look forward to working with you. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call us at 213-972-4310.

Performance Introduction

"I would like to introduce today's performance which is presented by The Music Center of Los Angeles County. TAIKOPROJECT is a taiko drum ensemble that has performed at hundreds of schools, on television, and in performing arts centers throughout the country. Using the ancient Taiko drums, but with a modern approach, they will take us from the past, into the present. Please welcome TAIKOPROJECT!"



Feel free to encourage the adult members of your audience to share the experience on social media!

Tag us on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram at @MusicCenterLA and we might repost your photos!

SPACE

- 20' wide x 15' deep minimum
- Portable stages must be sturdy, level and securely lashed, with steps leading up to them
- The acoustics of some indoor rooms may create an environment in which audience members sensitive to loud noises may need ear plugs

SURFACE

- Freshly mopped (not waxed)
- Irregularities covered with tape
- Extraneous clutter removed

OUTDOOR PERFORMANCES

- Shaded and protected from wind and excess traffic or playground noise
 - Wood surface preferred
- Concrete and grass are not acceptable
- Raised seating for audience is preferred

EQUIPMENT

- One microphone with stand and PA system

ARRIVAL

- 45 minutes prior to the scheduled start time to prepare and set up

PARKING

- 2-3 space closest to the venue for loading and unloading

ASSISTANCE

- Please have a representative ready to welcome the performers and assist as needed

START TIME

- Please prepare to start the program on time
- Audience should be in the venue, seated and ready to begin at the listed times

TAIKOPROJECT

ART FORM: Music

STYLE: Taiko

CULTURE: Japanese

MEET THE ARTIST:

TAIKOPROJECT was founded in 2000 in Los Angeles, California by a group of young, emerging taiko drummers led by Bryan Yamami and Masato Baba. The group continues to refine their unique style of taiko performance, blending traditional forms with an innovative and fresh aesthetic. The members of the ensemble were born and raised in the United States, and grew up listening to American popular music which has been a major influence on their work. They first made waves when they became the first American taiko group to win the prestigious Tokyo International Taiko Contest in 2005. The full group currently consists of 18 members and has performed on the Academy Awards, the Grammy Awards, NBC's *The Voice*, Syfy's *Face/Off*, *The X-Factor*, *Conan*, *Jimmy Kimmel Live*, *The Late Late Show with James Corden*, *Food Network's Iron Chef Gauntlet*, and the *iHeartRadio Music Festival*, along with supporting numerous artists such as 30 Seconds to Mars, Stevie Wonder, Usher, Alicia Keys, A.R. Rahman, John Legend, and Kanye West.

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:

TAIKOPROJECT presents an interactive and dynamic introduction to the music, history, and art of taiko. The program features songs interspersed with specific aspects of how taiko has made its way from Japan to modern day America. The audience is also given a view into how the drums are constructed and the craftsmanship involved. The group gives insight into the contemporary approach used to create and play taiko music today. Beside the main taiko drums, there are also metal percussion instruments played, including the *atarigane*, a small circular brass gong, and small brass cymbals, called *chappa*. In addition, there are two wind instruments—the *shinobue*, or bamboo flute, and the *horagai*, a giant seashell with a mouthpiece. The audience is also given an opportunity to learn a taiko pattern, called an *oroshi* and learn the verbal sounds that match the rhythmic pattern. This begins with a short vocal “call and response” pattern called *ki ai*. Toward the end of the program, students and teachers have the opportunity to come up to the stage and play the taiko drums. The performance concludes with a dynamic song called “Many Sides.” It demonstrates a modern style of taiko from Tokyo, Japan, and includes choreography and improvisation.



PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE:

Originating from Japan, taiko was first used by farmers who would strike the drum in hopes that the sound would bring rain for their crops to grow. The deep rumble of the drum, when struck, resembled the sound of thunder. Many villages even determined their boundaries by the distance the sound of the drum could carry. Taiko was also used as part of ceremonial and religious events and later was used in traditional Japanese theatre and music.

Taiko drums are handmade and a single, medium-sized drum can take as long as 40 hours to make. It is believed that the spirit of the trees from which the wood came, as well as the drum makers and performers, come to embody each drum. Movement is an integral part of taiko, requiring each musician to use his/her body in connection with the drum and its sound to communicate.

The style of group taiko drumming known as “kumi-daiko,” often seen today, has existed for over a half century and is considerably new when compared to the long history and evolution of taiko. In the 1950s Daihachi Oguchi, a Japanese jazz drummer trained in western music, visited a temple in Japan and found ancient Japanese sheet music. Instead of playing the music by himself, he decided he wanted to split up the parts and play them the various taiko drums with a group of musicians. Thus, a new style of playing taiko with an ensemble, “kumi-daiko,” was born.

This style first made its way to America in 1968 by a Japanese man named Seiichi Tanaka. He founded the first taiko group in America, called San Francisco Taiko Dojo, still a very active taiko group. Around the same time in Los Angeles, a group of third-generation Japanese Americans were looking for a way to express their cultural heritage, and started playing a form of taiko they found at their local temple. They started a group called Kinnara Taiko. From these first two groups, taiko started spreading all over the United States and today there are over 200 taiko groups across the country. Just like any other art form, taiko continues to grow and evolve.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- How do the movements of TAIKOPROJECT performers relate to the music they make? Does the size of the drum affect the movements they use? If so, how?
- What is unique about playing taiko? How does it differ from playing other types of drums you have seen?
- The sound of taiko is often used to recreate sounds heard in nature such as thunder and rain. What are some other instruments that are often used to recreate, or imitate other natural sounds?
- What were the different types of taiko that were demonstrated? Which one was your favorite and why?
- What was your favorite part of the performance? What was it about this part that stood out to you?
- What other aspects of Japanese culture are you familiar with?

FRAMEWORK FOCUS—SCIENCE:

Have students learn about natural materials similar to taiko construction materials. It is interesting to note that early cultures used the materials most available to them. To learn about various types of wood, students will need to bring in one wooden item from home and tap them to hear the different sounds they make based on the hardness or thickness of the wooden item. Perhaps do some research to discover what type of wood is used to build different types of instruments. If you are interested, make a chart with pictures of instruments and then list the type of wood used to make them.

A rawhide chew or toy can be used to demonstrate how taiko drumheads are stretched. When taiko drumheads are stretched over the drum body, the cowhide heads are soaked in water overnight in order to make them soft and pliable. Once they are stretched, they are tacked down and left to dry. Once dry, they are hard again, and have also been reduced in length and width. This process shows the science of biological materials and effects of water on them. Think about other materials that could be used as a "skin" if cowhide wasn't available (rubber, stretch cloth, etc.).

California Arts Standards: Artistic Processes

Cr	Creating
Pr	Performing/Producing/Presenting
Re	Responding
Cn	Connecting

Learn more at:

<https://tinyurl.com/ArtsStandardsCA>

ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE:

Cn Taiko is an important aspect of Japanese culture that has been passed down from ancient times. Can you relate it to something in your family history that has been passed down from your ancestors? Make a list, then share and discuss with your fellow classmates.

Cr Taiko drums come in all shapes and sizes, and each can be played in various ways. Do you remember some of the different types of taiko that the performers introduced? Draw a picture of the different drums you saw during the performance.

Cr Plan and make a simple 4-beat drum pattern using a combination of the following sounds: *Don, Do-Ko, dokodoko, Tsu, Tsu-Ku, Ka, and Ka-Ra* (the words used for the basic sounds played on a taiko). Say the pattern out loud and have your fellow classmates imitate you by clapping the pattern. Loud claps should be used for a 'Don' or 'DoKo'. Soft claps should be used for a 'TsuKu'. Snap your fingers (or stomp your feet if you can't snap your fingers) for a "Ka' or 'KaRa'. Try to play the pattern to a constant tempo using a metronome, (a device that keeps a steady tempo; various apps are available if you don't have one). Experiment with different combinations of the sounds.

Re Using several of the following adjectives, write a paragraph evaluating the TAIKOPROJECT sounds:

timid	exciting	vibrant	bright
listless	expressionless	expressive	intense
strong	concentrated	energetic	assertive

Take two to five of these words and write one to three sentences that describe taiko music from your perspective.

Cr Create a poem or story with a taiko drummer as the main character. Include directions on how to present specific lines or sections so that the traits of taiko drumming are emphasized. For example:

Softly like rain (read like rain falling)

Strong and steady (say line three times)

With rhythm (add finger snaps or claps)

Broken by silence (shhhhhhhhhh)

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:

Varian, Heidi, *The Way of Taiko*. Stone Bridge Press, 2005.

Bender, Shawn, *Taiko Boom: Japanese Drumming in Place and Motion*. University of California Press, 2012

"Japanese Festival Sounds." The Music Center, The Music Center, www.musiccenter.org/education/Teacher-Resources/Artsource-Curriculum/Available-ArtSource-Units/Japanese-Festival-Sounds/.

Contact Name: _____

Phone: _____

_____ AND THE MUSIC CENTER ANNOUNCE TAIKOPROJECT TO PERFORM ON _____

_____ and The Music Center today announced the upcoming performance of TAIKOPROJECT on campus. The performance is presented by The Music Center's education department, part of TMC Arts, which provides many offerings including live performances, classroom workshops, scholarship and training programs, online arts curriculum, on-campus events and professional development.

TAIKOPROJECT was founded in 2000 in Los Angeles, California by a group of young, emerging taiko drummers led by Bryan Yamami and Masato Baba. The group continues to define a modern American style of taiko, blending traditional forms with an innovative and fresh aesthetic. The group first made waves when they became the first American taiko group to win the prestigious Tokyo International Taiko Contest in 2005. Currently consisting of 18 members, TAIKOPROJECT has gone on to perform on the Academy Awards, the Grammy Awards, NBC's The Voice, Syfy's Face/Off, The X-Factor, Conan, Jimmy Kimmel Live, The Late Late Show with James Corden, Food Network's Iron Chef Gauntlet, the iHeartRadio Music Festival, and have performed with numerous artists such as 30 Seconds to Mars, Stevie Wonder, Usher, Alicia Keys, A.R. Rahman, John Legend, and Kanye West.

For more than 40 years, The Music Center Performing Artists in Schools and Neighborhoods have been the premier resource for high-quality educational performances, offering one of the most compelling and diverse artistic rosters. The Music Center's incredible artists bring the magic of live performance to audiences throughout Los Angeles County, with an emphasis on programs that are an excellent fit for educational and neighborhood settings. All Music Center Performing Artists in Schools and Neighborhoods performances include standards-based curriculum materials that feature background information on the artists and their performance, as well as related classroom activities with connections to multiple curricular disciplines. Schools can choose from more than 60 performances in music, dance, theatre and storytelling from an internationally acclaimed roster of artists seen across the globe in films, theaters, concert halls, television shows and museums.

About The Music Center

The Music Center convenes artists, communities and ideas with the goal of deepening the cultural lives of every resident in Los Angeles County. The \$70 million non-profit performing arts organization has two divisions: TMC Arts and TMC Ops. TMC Arts, The Music Center's programming engine, provides year-round programming inside The Music Center's four theatres, on Jerry Moss Plaza, outside at Grand Park—a 12-acre adjacent green space—in schools and other locations all over Los Angeles County and on a digital platform called The Music Center Offstage. TMC Arts presents world-class dance with Glorya Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center, free and low-cost public concerts and events, as well as live and digital K–12 arts education programs, workshops, performances, interactive experiences and special events. TMC Ops manages the theatres, the Plaza and Grand Park, which comprise \$2 billion in county assets, on behalf of the County of Los Angeles. The Music Center is also home to four renowned resident companies—Center Theatre Group, Los Angeles Master Chorale, LA Opera and LA Phil. For more information, visit musiccenter.org. Follow The Music Center on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @MusicCenterLA.

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For more information, please contact The Music Center at 213-972-3332. Members of the media are welcome to cover this performance. Please contact The Music Center prior to sending a reporter or photographer to the school.

The Music Center
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Neighborhoods

Exciting
Dance
Music
Theatre
Storytelling
Performances
Come To You

TAIKO PROJECT



DATE: _____

TIME: _____

LOCATION: _____



musiccenter.org/performingartists
@MusicCenterLA

THE
MUSIC
CENTER
A TMC Arts Program

ARTS INTEGRATION PARTNERSHIPS

Music Center teaching artists work in classrooms to empower student creativity and develop their artistic, work-force and life skills. The program deepens learning across the curriculum in collaboration with classroom teachers by combining dance, music, theatre, visual and media arts with content areas including English Language Arts, history, science and social emotional learning for students of all ages and abilities.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Music Center's professional development programs bring educators together to participate in an experiential and immersive approach to integrating dance, music, theatre, visual and media arts into their classrooms. The focus is on meeting educators where they are and building their capacity over time and in depth — both at school sites and at The Music Center. As but one example, each year The Music Center's Arts Integration Symposium engages participants in all grade levels, art forms and content areas.

DANCE LEARNING PROGRAMS

Glorya Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center offers Student Matinee performances during each season featuring world-class dance performances that celebrate the diversity of L.A. communities; invited rehearsals that provide young people with an inside look at the creative process of dance companies in residence; master classes focused on technique, choreography and dialogue with professional dancers; and creative residencies where local youth engage with visiting dance companies for multiple days, including the Ailey school residency program.

STUDENT FESTIVALS

The Very Special Arts Festival engages students of all abilities as artistic creators and contributors. At the Blue Ribbon Children's Festival, fifth graders across the county experience live performances and dance together as a community.

SPOTLIGHT YOUNG ARTISTS PROGRAM

A nationally acclaimed, free arts training and scholarship program that develops the creative capacity of high school performing artists in Southern California.

ARTS GROWN LA

A new platform for artistic expression already thriving in communities throughout Los Angeles County. From performances at parks, community centers, libraries, senior centers and civic events, to Hip Hop dance parties and youth lessons, Arts Grown L.A. collaborates with community partners and neighborhoods to uplift artists and creativity, complementing existing local programs.

ARTSOURCE®

The Music Center's Artsource® curriculum is designed to bring the expressive world of the arts into classrooms. The materials are available online free of cost.

OTHER ON-CAMPUS MUSIC CENTER OFFERINGS:

Glorya Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center, Grand Park, Dance DTLA, L.A. County Holiday Celebration, Plaza Concerts, and Symphonian Campus Tours, among other activities

For all our offerings, please visit us at www.musiccenter.org